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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

3-25-1927

Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 12)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-
ness I held fast,
and will not let
it go."
—Job 27:5

JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Workers
of the world
united! You
have nothing to
lose but your
chains."

Vol. IX, No. 12.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

Raincoat Workers Strike Against Runaway Shop

Bick Bros. in Bridgeport, Conn., Tied Up By Local 20

Vice-president David Gingold, manager of Raincoat Makers' Union, Local 20 of New York, announced this week that the firm of Bick Bros., a raincoat firm which locked out its workers and later fled to Bridgeport, Conn., to begin manufacturing in that city, has had its new non-union shop tied up quite effectively by the out-of-town committee of Local 20. The raincoat makers' organization of New York is being aided loyally by the Bridgeport labor unions, Brother John J. Egan, the president of Connecticut State Federation of Labor, being especially active in their support.

The Bick Bros. firm broke its contract with the Union several weeks ago, discharged its workers, and picked the Connecticut city as a field for its non-union operations, apparently on the ground that some cloakmakers had been sentenced for picketing there during the last cloak strike. Its plans, however, were rudely disturbed, as shown by the fact that it ran plumb into a strike shortly after it opened its new factory.

Cloak Chairmen Launch Drive To Rebuild Union

Campaign to Resume Full Control of Work Condition.
By Big Gathering of Shop Heads—Scab Nests and Re-
of Communist Sabotage Must Be Routed—Meeting Appr.
Temporary Suspension of Unemployment Fund.

At a meeting of cloak and suit shop chairmen, which filled the big assembly room of Beethoven Hall, 210 East Fifth Street, New York City, to the doors, on Tuesday, March 22, the shop heads enthusiastically approved the plans submitted by President Morris Sigman and Vice-president Julius Hochman, general manager of the Joint Board, for the launching of a all-embracing campaign to drive out of the trade the non-union and sub-standard shops which have increased so greatly in number, especially in Harlem, Bronx and Brooklyn, during the period of Communist domination of the Joint Board and during the recent ill-fated cloak strike.

The meeting was the most impressive gathering of active cloakmakers since the International leadership, last December, deposed the group of irresponsible Communists from office.

In the Joint Board and in the four locals controlled by them, and assumed direct charge over the cloak and dress situation in the New York market. The hall was filled with chairmen of the biggest and best known shops in the industry, proving beyond doubt that the International locals control today the overwhelming majority of the workers in the industry, and that the Communist remnant is confined mainly to a few small and unimportant shops.

The program presented by Manager Hochman was thoroughly discussed by the chairmen, who voted to instruct the executive officers of the Joint Board to leave nothing undone to regain for the union its former control of the shops.

Tentative Suspension of Idleness Fund Approved

The shop chairmen also agreed to the suspension of the unemployment insurance fund in the cloak industry, instituted on August 4, 1924. The suspension will continue until July, 1928, when the International will again be

(Continued on Page 2)

Shops Vote to Open Books

to Open Books

Due to the continued appeal of the International Union to the rank and file to support financially the effort of the union to reconstruct and strengthen the union, four additional shops have in the last two days voted a half day's pay to the union's reconstruction fund. They are: Weisman and Schneider, 451 East 88th Street; Herman Levine, 2164 Third Avenue; Schwartz and Schwartz, 2230 Eighth Avenue, and the Bruno Cloak Company, 112 East 125th Street.

The union's campaign to eliminate the chaos and spread of non-union production in the cloak trade bore fruit this week when the jobbing firm of Potter and Schattman, 501 Seventh Avenue, was compelled to renew contractual relations with the International after it had refused the International the right to examine the firm's books to ascertain whether it was dealing with non-union shops.

At first the firm refused to submit its books for investigation and Jacob Halperin, manager of the Joint Board Jobbers' department, promptly stopped off the firm's union contractors. In two days the firm was forced to join the Merchants' Ladies' Garment Association and submitted its list of contractors. Union contractors working for the firm were then permitted to resume work. Active in this effort was Julius Hochman, manager of the Joint Board.

Local 10 Jubilee Festival—This Saturday and Sunday

Great Concert and Meeting in Mecca Temple Saturday Afternoon
—President Green, Abraham Cahan, Morris Hillquit and President Sigman Speakers—Tosha Seidel, Isa Kremer and Isidor Gorn Artists—A Banquet for 1,200 Persons Sunday Night.

The 25th Anniversary of our Cutters' Union, Local 10, will be celebrated this Saturday and Sunday, March 26 and 27, in the auditorium of the Mecca Temple on West 56th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues.

The big holiday of the ladies' garment cutters, postponed from last year on account of the cloak strike, will start on Saturday afternoon with a concert and mass-meeting. On the musical program of the afternoon there will appear Tosha Seidel, world-renowned violinist, Isa Kremer, celebrated balladist, and Isidor Gorn, talented pianist. The speakers' list contains the names of President William Green of the A. F. of L., Abraham Cahan, editor of the "Forward", Morris Sigman, President of the I. L. G. W. U., and Morris Hillquit, counsel for the International.

The jubilee banquet will take place on the following night, Sunday, March 27, in the same place. About 1,200 persons have bought tickets for the big dinner, among these delegations from all International locals in New York City and from the most important labor union bodies in the metropolis. All tickets, we are informed, for the concert and mass-meeting already had been distributed and all the seats for the banquet sold. Cutters from more than a hundred shops have reserved blocks of seats to accommodate the complete personnel of their cutting rooms.

The jubilee committee of Local 10 also had prepared a book on the history of Local 10 since its inception as a cutters' organization in the wom-

en's wear trades. The book is written by James Oneal, well-known Socialist and Labor writer and historian.

Pres. Sigman To Members of Local 10

Cutters, Members of Local 10:

If any group of organized workers in our industry deserves to be honored as the vanguard of our fighting line, that honor and distinction undisputably falls to you. You have earned it on the merits of your record for the past twenty-five years since you have joined the ranks of our International Union.

It would be a simple matter for me to extend to you on this jubilee day my congratulations on your completion of the first quarter of a century of your existence as a great and influential labor body. But having lived and fought side by side with you during most of these twenty-five years, as a private in the ranks and as an officer of our organized forces, I feel that a mere felicitation would be totally inadequate for this momentous occasion. I feel, and I am sure that my feeling is shared by all the members of the General Executive Board of our International, that we owe to you, members of Local 10, the acknowledgment that without your magnificent support, wholehearted cooperation and staunch loyalty our International Union could have never achieved the height which it reached but a few years ago, and that without it the hope, faith and confidence of bringing it back to its position of influence and power in the world of Labor would be unthinkable.

Hail, brothers of Local 10, upon this historic day, this holiday that fills with sincere joy every true friend and comrade in the army of organized workers and sends dismay and anguish down the backs of our enemies, the cunning taskmasters from without and the no less dangerous snakes dressed up in Communist skins from within. With heads uplifted and step firm, your road lighted by the fires of constructive idealism, and brushing aside all obstacles you are marching forward to a glorious future.

MORRIS SIGMAN, President, I. L. G. W. U.

Pressers Elect New Officers For 1927

Executive Board, Manager and Chairman Chosen.

Elections held on Monday March 21, in Local 35, Pressers' Union, of the I. L. G. W. U., resulted in the designa-

tion of I. Wasilevsky as manager of the local. Wasilevsky received 564 votes, only 28 ballots being cast against him. The elections mark the return of the first of four local unions to a normal condition since discredited Communist leaders were eliminated from office for their conduct of the late cloak strike and their refusal to pay dues and assessments to the International Union.

Max Cohen defeated B. Yellin for chairman of Local 35 by a vote of 501 to 97. The following were elected to the executive board of the local:

Cloak Pressers: S. Eisenberg, Morris Goldowsky, H. Dorfman, H. Schackman, Max Blatt, J. Fachorowitz, Harry Press, N. Katz, Max Glazer, N. Walzer, I. Seidman, Abe Saslow, A. Rudin, Morris Fraizer, N. Slavin, M. Holnick and B. Friedman.

Dress Pressers: Max Schochter, Abraham Weisman, Simon Deutch, L. Helf, J. Shuldiner, Charles Queen and B. Sigman.

STUDENTS' REUNION SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Get your tickets for our Students Reunion Saturday, April 2, 3 p. m., dining room of Washington Irving High School.

Dancing, singing, refreshments—Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Playrs. Admission 50 cents. Tickets can be obtained at our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street. Make reservations at once and be sure to be admitted.

Cloak Chairmen Launch Drive To Rebuild Union

(Continued from Page 1)

gin to enforce the provisions for the operation of the fund. Since its inception, \$2,700,000 has been contributed into the fund, of which \$2,000,000 was expended for unemployment relief. Under the tentative suspension, all funds collected since January 1st, 1937, are to be turned back to the contributors. All funds due but uncollected up to January 1st of this year are to be collected by the trustees of the fund.

Pres. Sigman and Vice-president Hochman openly charged the breakdown of the fund's operation to the assaults made upon it by the former Communist leaders, when in power in the union, and to a group of employers seeking to avoid their responsibility to the fund.

Vice-president Hochman stated that, during the last cloak strike, \$250,000 should have been collected since 16,000 workers were working in settled shops. Payments were to be made into the fund at the rate of two per cent of the payroll contributed by employers and one per cent of their wages contributed by the workers. Of this sum only \$75,000 was collected by the ousted strike leaders. Prior to the strike and after the "lefts" came into control of the union, he said, arrears of \$220,000 had been allowed to accumulate. "Because of the union's defeat in the strike," he added, "only \$30,000 have been collected since the strike, out of about \$550,000 due." In addition, the "lefts" always looked upon the fund as on a form of 'class-collaboration' and therefore not approved by Communist theory."

Shortly after the settlement of the strike, employers began pressing for the end of the fund pointing to the failure of the union to collect during the strike. President Sigman had made every effort to maintain the fund and tried to induce the employers to

change their views, but the situation had to be faced and the suspension was the result.

Urges Observance of Label

General Manager Hochman also appealed to the chairmen to insist on the use of the Prosanis label in all garments they work on. He asked that failure by employers to use the label should be reported to the union, which would call "half-hour" strikes, if necessary, to impress upon the employers their obligation to use the label. In general, he said, despite its weakened condition, the union has gained sufficient strength to insist upon observance of work standards. He asked the chairmen to impress upon the employers the fact that Saturday is no longer a working day in the cloak industry.

President Green Demands Protection for Union Workers

A. F. of L. Head, At Central Labor Council Meeting, Insists Workers Be Protected From Communist-Hired Sluggers.

Calling upon the municipal authorities of New York to protect loyal members of the American Federation of Labor in the needle trades who have been attacked and intimidated by gangsters and thugs carrying out orders of discredited and expelled Communist leaders in the cloak, dress and fur trades, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, speaking before an extraordinary meeting of the Central Trades and Labor Council at Beethoven Hall on Monday March 23, warned that unless the workers are protected in their legal right he would announce to the world that civil government here had broken down.

President Green declared in a "fighting speech" that the A. F. of L. did not propose to be intimidated in using Communist tactics in retaliation against Communist hirelings. If the

Vice-Pres. Mollie Friedman Tells Story of Communist Treason at Chicago Meeting

Gives Account of Blasted Conspiracy of Communist Plotters in New York Cloak and Dress Unions.

A vivid portrayal of the intrigues of the Communists to rule or ruin, based on their recent attempts to gain complete control of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was brought home to an intensely interested audience of delegates of the various affiliated unions of the Chicago Federation of Labor at the Federation meeting, Sunday, March 6th. Vice President Mollie Friedman of the I. G. W. U. told the story with all of its harrowing details, laying stress particularly upon the total iniquity of the conspirators against the labor movement.

How the Communists, determined to ruin if they cannot rule, stooped to any diabolic scheme to gain their end, and how they were finally defeated

was told by Miss Friedman in words both simple and arresting that kept the interest of her audience keyed up to a high pitch. Miss Friedman traced the beginnings of the so-called Trade Union Educational League, and the weapons of combat chosen by the Communist agitators in their campaign against the trade unions. Chapter after chapter of their insidious work of destruction, from the formation of "nuclei" within the locals to foment dissension among the workers, to the instigation of unjustifiable strikes, were recited by Miss Friedman, down to the last and greatest Communist crime—the incitement of the disastrous general cloak strike last summer, which ended in the practical elimination of the Communists as a factor in the life of the cloak and dress unions.

The audience, which consisted of delegates and their friends, thanked Miss Friedman for her lucid and convincing presentation of the facts which attended the well-laid plot of the Communists to capture the Ladies' Garment Workers' unions of New York and their defeat.

"Earth"

The new art must evidently be gauged by the amount of noise committed in its name. This reviewer, in his short but tender memory, does not recall ever before having been so intimidated from the stage as at the performance of Emu Jo Hasshe's "Earth", the second offering of the New Playwrights' Theatre at the Forty-Second Street. Pitched in a falsetto, this melodramatic spectacle of pseudo-primitive life of the American Negro beats about the ears from the first curtain like an army of kettledrums. The critical faculty is not softly lulled to sleep by the drama's persuasiveness, but actually paralyzed by a sort of useless violence, no doubt indicated in the script but magnified beyond measure by the "blood and guts" directorial genius of this theatre. Exhausting as the demands are upon a group of natural Negro actors, the resistance of the audience is less cruelly effaced altogether.

There seems to be a tug of war between the author and the actors. Seriously written, "Earth" nevertheless becomes rollicking melodrama. The actors realize this, and those of us who in our youth parked in the gallery of Blaney's Theatre in Brooklyn, or of the Lyceum in that borough are reminded of the blood and thunder thrillers of a bygone day.

The story, briefly, deals with the struggles of a Negro torn between the Christian God who had been ruthless to her despite her great piety and the voodoo idolatry of her African ancestors. There are seven scenes and, for the first five the play does not move a single inch. If affords Mr. Hasshe, however, opportunity to discourse at length on the comparative merits of the opposing faiths, without seeming to resolve the whole business, unless, tired, he concludes with "a plague on both your houses". The acting is good, a couple of spirituals are beautifully rendered but are somewhat malapropos and one or two group tableaux pictorially pleasing.

RICHARD ROHMAN.

Cloakmakers Asked To Stay Away From Los Angeles

Market Has No Jobs for New Arrivals

We have received a request from the secretary of the Los Angeles local to print the following announcement, or rather appeal to cloakmakers to keep out from the Los Angeles cloak market for the time being. Here it is: "Dear Brother Editor:

"Kindly insert this appeal in a conspicuous place in our journal. We ask cloakmakers from other cities to stay away, for the present, from Los Angeles.

"The condition of new arrivals here is far from good. The Los Angeles cloak market cannot employ many workers. Those who are here and are compelled to stay here have little or no work. The prospects for outsiders are therefore, very slim, indeed."

The request is signed by Bro. H. Rubenstein, secretary of Local 52. A lengthy article on the condition of the trade and of the local organization in Los Angeles, from the pen of Secretary Rubenstein, the reader will find on another page in this issue.

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COLLIS LOVELLY General President
CHARLES L. BAINE, General Secretary-Treasurer



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My First Two Weeks in Local 38 Office

By BORIS DRASIN, Secretary

For the past year, our members have very rarely had the chance of finding, in our International weeklies, articles or reports concerning the doings in our local.

The members expected, and rightfully so, that that leadership which claimed to be radical, progressive and militant, and above all democratic, would have made it its business to use, all ways and means by which to speak to the rank and file of our organization, in order to acquaint them with, at least, the more important happenings in our local. The International papers were the proper medium for them to use and a medium which would entail no expense to the organization and which would reach every one of our members every week. Why this means has been used so seldom, I leave it to you members to judge.

As for myself, I can say that I will not take the previous administration's behavior as an example, as their deeds did not and will not, in the future, serve as deeds worthy of emulation. I shall speak to the members, through these pages, as often as time will permit me, just as I have done for the three years in the past with the intermission of the one year when I was not an official of the Union.

The first thing I undertook, upon officially taking over the office, was to talk over matters and take over things from the previous secretary and to adjust them as quickly as possible, so as to do away with the accumulation of work. There was quite an abundance of this since things could not properly be taken care of in the last few months, owing to the length of time occupied by the campaign and elections, which were, for one reason or another, or for no reason at all, postponed by the previous administration.

Then I had to clean house, by which I mean that I had to put the office in proper order, as I found quite a chaos everywhere.

At the same time, the "season" approaching, I had to meet the many problems that come with it—here a discharge case, there the employer asking for reorganization of his shop (a thing that employers never dared ask to before) and so on. Many things had to be straightened out between the workers of certain shops. Above all, there was the problem of placing members who for one or another reason, have been out of work for quite some time.

All these problems have been met promptly by the office (Brother Pashani and myself) and as a result, things are pretty well now on the road to a normal state of affairs in our Union. Many jobless workers have been put to work in the various shops. All cases have been adjusted, many shops have been visited and quite a number of shop meetings held.

The new executive board has held two sessions and has organized itself into the different standing committees, and we can say that almost the whole machinery has been put into action. As soon as things will be running in full force and in good shape, the new administration expects to tackle all the other vital problems of our union, such as the organization of the unorganized shops in our trade and the question as to how to put the union on its feet again, financially and otherwise, so as to enable the union to make the employers abide by the new agreement recently signed and also to make further progress in all ways possible.

This new administration feels that all this is possible. A great deal, of course, depends upon the degree of interest the membership will display in our affairs. Above all, it is necessary and important that the members at large make it their business to attend the union meetings and to pass upon the various activities of the past and present and upon the future activities that may be suggested by the executive board.

The few employers who have tried to ignore some of the provisions of the new agreement have soon found out that these tactics were in vain. The office insisted upon having all things adjusted in conformity with the agreement. The firm of Bendel insisted upon decreasing the number of workers making up their staff. This was denied them. They also discharged two tailors. These two were reinstated.

With this I will finish my first report, since I do not want to make it too long. Members are requested to read the International weeklies in order to get first hand information about the activities of all other locals of the International, as well as the activities of the International itself and to watch for the article that speaks directly to you from your chosen leadership.

News From Los Angeles

By H. RUBINSTEIN
Secretary Local 52

Bro. Plotkin the manager of our local, has written you already about the renewal of our agreement with the Los Angeles cloak manufacturers. There are several things of interest in connection with it, however, that I thought "Justice" readers might like to know. So here it is:

We signed the old agreement to run for another eight months, until the end of November. We deemed it advisable not to start at this time a fight for new conditions. Not because we are contented with what we have or that the local itself is in a bad condition—I believe Local 52 never was in better shape than now. Our meetings are very well attended, and our local treasury is in a satisfactory condition. Our members, you will recall, have taxed themselves recently a day's work to build up our finances for the coming fight. More than a half of the members already paid in this tax, and the rest will follow suit very soon.

Why We Postponed Strike

We did not take up the fight for following reasons: Los Angeles is a fast growing city, numerically and industrially. The cloak industry in Los Angeles is growing fast too, but, unfortunately, the industry is falling into bad hands. The new shops that are coming up like mushrooms after a rain, are hardly worth the name. They are bed-room shops with two or three workers, and you know how difficult it is to organize such shops, where the "boss," foreman and workers are all one bunch. True, we have a few unorganized shops of the larger type, but most of the non-union places are of the picky variety.

It was this fact largely that decided our executive board to postpone the fight—until the organization of the unorganized has been completed. We must bring the non-union element in the trade to the level of the organized in every sense, and then undertake by united effort to improve the general conditions in the trade.

We also knew that the bosses would have rather forced the fight on us at this time, and this was another reason why we thought it best to keep out of a conflict for the present. We shall strike when we find it most suitable and not when it suits others.

Labor Productivity Increases

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently published figures showing the increase in production per man-hour since 1914 in eleven different industries. A simple way of expressing this measure of productivity is to say that it is a comparison of the number of units of output (pairs of shoes, steel ingots and the like) produced by an employee, working one hour, in 1925, with the same figure in 1914.

These figures show the following increases in the eleven years—iron and steel 59 per cent, boots and shoes 6 per cent, leather tanning 26 per cent, slaughtering and meat-packing 27 per cent, petroleum refining 33 per cent, paper and pulp 34 per cent, cement manufacturing 51 per cent, automobiles 172 per cent, rubber tires 211 per cent, flour milling 40 per cent, cane sugar refining 23 per cent.

Increases in productivity are thus pretty general, but are largest in industries where technical improvement and automatic machinery have been introduced most rapidly. The shoe industry stands alone in revealing the small increase of 6 per cent, but this can probably be accounted for by the immense variation of style and the fancy shoes introduced since before

the war, especially in women's footwear. The price of such variety is naturally a smaller gain in methods of mass production and economy of effort.

When more units of product are produced per unit of work, the nation grows richer and there are more goods to be distributed per person. This means that wages can be increased. They can be increased not merely as fast as the cost of living, but faster, so that the workers may each buy more than before. This great increase in productivity has permitted the increase in the purchasing power of labor which has taken place since 1914, without making the rich any poorer. As a matter of fact, it may turn out when we know all the facts that the more wealthy classes have profited more from the increased production than has labor.

Another indication of the tremendous increase in productivity is in the recently published figures of the National Bureau of Economic Research on the total national income. This is an estimate of the dollars received during the year by everybody, and is obtained from sources entirely different from the sources used for the productivity study.

This study shows that average income per capita of the population—men, women and children—was \$320 in 1914 and \$770 in 1925. Naturally the purchasing power of the dollars received was greater in 1914 than in 1925. But when the dollars are reduced to the same purchasing power as in 1913, we find that the increase of the average has been from \$316 in 1914 to \$455 in 1925.

If we divide the total national income not by the number of the whole population, but by the number "gainfully employed", we get something which is more nearly analogous to the productivity figures. Of course, the gainfully employed include corporation executives, farmers, railroad men, merchants, building trades employees and many others besides manufacturing workers. Nevertheless it is interesting to see the gain in output of values by all these groups. In dollars of the same purchasing power as in 1913, the average income per person gainfully employed rose from \$828 in 1914 to \$1,186 in 1925, or over 43 per cent.

A large part of this increase of per capita income has taken place since 1921. The annual increase since 1921 has been as great as the entire increase during the 12 years from 1909 to 1921.

The National Bureau says, "From the economic point of view, the condition of the average inhabitant has been improving at a rate of about 7 per cent per annum." (Since 1921). Have wages received been capable of buying 7 per cent more, for each member of the family, every year than they did the year before? If not, wages have not been increasing as rapidly as the incomes of other classes, or even as rapidly as the general average. If not, labor has been falling behind in the distribution of income.

READ THE EDUCATIONAL PAGE
OF JUSTICE which appears weekly. This will keep you in touch with the activities of our Educational Department which are free to you and your family.

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

Published every Friday by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2143

MORRIS SIGMAN, President

A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer

MAX D. DANISH, Editor

Subscription price, paid in advance, \$1.00 per year.

Vol. IX, No. 12.

New York, N. Y., Friday, March 25, 1927

Entered as Second Class matter, April 16, 1925, at the Postoffice at New York, N. Y., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 26, 1919.

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EDITORIALS

A NEW COLLECTION SWINDLE—FOR "IMPRISONED CLOAKMAKERS"

The Communists are passing the hat around again. The sorry little group of union-wreckers from the old headquarters of the Joint Board on Lexington Avenue has started a new collection scheme, this time as a "defense fund for imprisoned cloakmakers". One after another their former fake enterprises—the "bond" issue, the appeals for "strike funds" for cloak strikes that exist no more—have crumpled up without realizing for them substantial funds to carry on organized gangster warfare on our unions.

The Communist gang is now hard up for money. So in looking around for a new possible sort of income they hit upon the cloakmakers in jail whom they themselves had induced to plead guilty some two months ago, the reckless advice that sent these men to prison. To any decent and honest thinking group in the Labor movement the idea of exploiting these unfortunate workers for money purposes would be abhorrent. But to these latter-day apostles of "revolution" nothing seems sacred, nothing is forbidden. To them the sad plight of the cloakmakers in jail is a fairly good prospect for panhandling, for an attempt to separate cloakmakers and dressmakers from some of their last pennies. Hence, this "defense fund for imprisoned cloakmakers".

It goes without saying that, if this appeal for pity should bring any money in the Communist net, it will never be used for the cloakmaker-prisoners, not even for their wives and children left destitute and without practically any support. The cloakmakers and the dressmakers and every other member of our Union know well enough what the deposed Communist officials need their money for and what use they would make of it. They need it to "pull" union shops down on strike, to surround these shops with so-called pickets, strong-arm fellows in their employ; they need it for feeding a dependable group of so-called business agents, whose "business" consists mostly in hanging around the deserted offices and giving it the appearance of a "busy" place. They need money for printing their lying circulars raging with impotence against the International and its leaders who had knocked them out of their snug places of power and exposed them before our membership in all their ugly nakedness; they need it for bolstering up "impartial" meetings of so-called shop chairmen in the thin hope of catching in their net some naive folks who might still believe that "unity" and cooperation with Communists is possible; they need it to organize "amalgamation" fronts with cliques of Communists that are operating for ruin and destruction in other needle trade unions—in short, they need funds to keep up a semblance of life for their moribund, pitiable opposition "union", but certainly not for the "defense" of the cloakmakers in jail.

What is the excuse for this "defense fund", what are the Communist collection-artists promising to do with it?

If there is a spark of honesty left in them, they should have confessed their guilt long ago in having helped to railroad these workers into jail, without giving them a chance to defend themselves before a jury. They should have admitted that under the circumstances, these men, having pleaded guilty, cannot demand and, least of all, get a new trial. They, the Communist ex-leaders, should have confessed that it was their own criminal incapacity, their irresponsible and treacherous attitude to these arrested cloakmakers, their eagerness to save the necks of their own picket commissars, that made them induce these workers to plead guilty, which practically closed the prison doors behind them. But who can expect honesty, decency and frankness from this discredited Communist outfit? Surely not the cloakmakers or the dressmakers who, had the bitter and costly experience of their "leadership"; surely not the other members of our International who have watched with horror the spectacle of ruin and demoralization which the Communists had staged in our best organized trades during the past two years.

Have the prisoners themselves any confidence in the integrity of this bunch of incompetent adventurers? Do these unfortunate men, who lost their liberty at the behest of the Communist "advisers" have any faith in them, or would they have anything to do with them? Our members may obtain a reply to this question from the following letter, received this week from a group of these prisoners. It speaks for itself:

March 17, 1927.

"We the undersigned imprisoned cloakmakers have learned that the Communists have sent out an appeal in our names for money."

"We wish to notify all cloakmakers and the whole Labor movement that this appeal is but another dirty Communist trick for collecting money to carry on their union-smashing business."

"We are in jail because the Communists had told us to plead guilty. They did that to save their own necks. We have no con-

fidence in these deposed leaders who ruined the cloakmakers and their union and committed a crime against us."

"We have full confidence in the International, which is doing all in its power to help us in our sad plight."

"We condemn the Communists and we appeal to all cloakmakers not to contribute a single penny to these swindlers, and to stand by the International in its fight to rebuild our union."

With fraternal greetings,

J. PORENSKY,

NATHAN LENZ,

AB. FIGOWITZ,

SAM COHEN,

Cloakmakers Prisoners."

This money-hunting agony, this writhing, desperate attempt of the Communists to engineer through a "pity" game in the hope of separating our workers from some of their hard-earned money, sizes up accurately their place in our movement today. They have degenerated into a band of penny-snatchers, into a crew of confidence artists operating a chain of collection boxes, with their "revolutionary" masks all but torn off their faces, presenting a sight that can arouse nothing but scorn and limitless contempt among self-respecting trade unionists.

They will not fool our workers with their new money-making scheme under this pretext of "cloakmakers' defense"—just as they failed to ensnare them by their former "bond" selling and "save-the-union fund" tricks. It is hardly necessary to warn our members against this new Communist money-raising enterprise. The members of the I. L. G. W. U. by this time know well enough that every nickel that might fall into the Communist collection box would be used by them for one purpose only—to further assail the International Union and to spread poison and malice in the Labor movement. For these disrupters, our members have but one bit of advice, one parting message:

"For you there is no place in the workers' movement! With you there can be no peace, no compromise. We have driven you out of the lines, with the stamp of Cain on your forehead, and out of the lines you shall stay!"

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF LOCAL TEN

This Saturday and Sunday are red-letter days in the cutters' organization of the women's garment trades of New York City.

At a concert and mass-meeting on Saturday afternoon, in the magnificent Mecca Temple, and at a banquet on Sunday night, the cutters will celebrate the first quarter of a century of their existence as Local 10, as a division of the International Union. The ladies' garment cutters have had an organization for many years prior to 1901, having been affiliated with the New York Labor movement, and, specifically, with the Knights of Labor as far back as the eighties of the last century. This jubilee, however, marks their twenty-five years of activity as a part of our International organization, which they joined shortly after it was launched in 1900.

The jubilee festival of Local 10, nearly a year overdue owing to the strike of 1926 which dislocated the life of our New York organizations to an extent that precluded any sort of celebrating, is, by general consent, an event of first rate magnitude not to its members only. It is an affair in which all our locals will join, and in which all our members will take a special interest, particularly at this period of our organizational history.

For, the life of Local 10 in the past twenty-five years, its unbroken record of steady achievement and constant forging ahead, stands out, above all, as burning testimony to the undying truth that strength, influence and power in the Labor movement is the reward only of undivided allegiance to the essential principles of trade unionism, of an allegiance uncompromised by alliances with political parties or self-seeking groups, of a labor union policy which prefers the less spectacular but much safer road of economic achievement lighted up by constructive idealism to the unreal and catastrophic by-paths of "revolutionary" gambling.

During these twenty-five years as a component part of our International Union, Local 10 has taken a prominent part in every move for the improvement of the lot of the workers in our industry, always in the forefront, always trustworthy, dependable and always found wherever the fight raged hottest. In fact, the struggles in our industry without the participation of the great cutters' organization, seem unthinkable. And so the cutters have come to be recognized as the shock troops of our Union, the vanguard that never retreats, that knows no defeat, that even in the last disastrous strike foisted upon our workers by malicious influences from without, has succeeded in holding its ground against very severe odds.

And during the decent dark days in the life of the organization, when many of the other locals in New York, blinded by the demagoguery of the Communist charlatans were swept off their balance, the cutters true to their tradition and vindicating the trust of the Labor movement in them, have defeated every attempt of the union-wreckers to tie their union to the Communist bandwagon. The waves of Communist venom vainly beat at the cutters' line trying for an entering wedge. The members of Local 10 wouldn't surrender their organization to the wreckers; they kept the old faith—and they won.

Small wonder the jubilee of Local 10 is a mass holiday in which every member of the local is taking a proud part.

The loyal army of our members, and their leaders and spokesmen, if place and opportunity permitted, we are certain, would all be happy to join the thousands who will in person celebrate the jubilee of Local 10 this week end. But all of them will be there—in heart, mind and spirit—from every city in the land where the ladies' garment workers are organized. On the afternoon of the great meeting countless messages of genuine fraternal affection will stream to Mecca Temple to attest to a bond of comradeship

With American Communists Underground

5. Christmas Gifts at Expense of Russia's Starving Children

Graft in the "Idgezkorn"—A Story of Parcels, Insurance and Yuletide Bonuses—Communist Accountant Brings Charges of Graft But Central Committee of Communist Party Remains Deaf.

By JOSEPH LEVINSON

I N a preceding article, I mentioned already that, thanks to the fact that I represented the Russian Federation of the New York District—the Russian Communist "common people"—I would, from time to time, be summoned to take part in hearings on charges of misconduct preferred against active members, and not infrequently would have to appear myself as complainant by proxy for others, less independently situated, i. e., such as had cause to fear that they might lose their jobs in Communist offices, if they themselves should press the charges.

From the first day that some of the comrades had come to me with stories of graft and, later, with accounts of downright thievery, I had begun jotting down in a note book incident after incident with the object in view, eventually to place them before the "higher-up" in the Party, no matter how far I might have to travel to reach my goal. And, true to my decision, I had gone from place to place with these charges, from one Party authority to another, only to be met with deaf ears or to be rebuffed. So I would jot down my failures and try again—winding up finally by forwarding a complete account of these misdemeanors to Moscow—through a friendly messenger—with about the same puny results that I obtained from the Communists right here in the United States. And thus, tossed and buffeted from one set of "chivornika" to another in quest of Communist justice, I finally struck shore, the old shore of my comrades and friends in the labor movement.

"Friends of Soviet Russia"

When the "Jewish Daily Forward" started back in 1921 its campaign to unmask the "Friends of Soviet Russia", I was very active in passing the hat around to raise money for that organization. One may easily appreciate how bitter I became against the "Forward" for its attack on the "Friends". I thought it, indeed, a brutal outrage. How dare the "Forward" write that the Communists appropriate this money collected for starving Russian children and mothers to their own use? Am I not one of these collectors, and don't I personally know so well that this money is being forwarded to the proper source? The "Forward" charges, in my eyes, were spun out of sheer malice, and were framed for no other reason but the discrediting of my comrades and my Party.

Shortly thereafter, however, I came in contact with a few things that made me change my viewpoint with regard to the "Friends" and to the "frame-up" campaign of the "Forward".

The "F. S. A." disappeared from the horizon, and soon became replaced by the "Idgezkorn" with offices on West 42nd street. (Idgezkorn is an

abbreviation of Yiddisher Gesellschafter Komitee) formed in Russia to "help Jewish sufferers". This committee was completely dominated by the Jewish Section of the Communist Party of Russia, and instead of a social group became a purely governmental agency.—Ed.)

One day, Comrade Serebrenny, whom I had mentioned in a previous article, came to me with a request to recommend him, through Martens, then the Soviet "commercial agent" in the U. S., for a place in the Idgezkorn. Serebrenny had been an insurance agent, and in 1920 was arrested (together with me) in the Communist raids. He lost his job with the insurance company as a result, and was without work.

I went to Martens and obtained for Serebrenny a clerical job in the Idgezkorn.

Rotten Leather and Christmas Gifts

A few days later, Serebrenny appeared at my home, called me outside, and in a trembling voice told me: "Comrade Levinson, I am all upset; those fellows in the Idgezkorn are all 'making money' hand over fist!"

And here is what he related to me:

One of those closely connected with the management of the Idgezkorn (the managers were all rock-ribbed Communists, specially imported from Moscow) had brought to Martens samples of leather needed for the Red Army. Russia was seeking a big supply of leather in the American market. The leather expert employed by Martens rejected the samples produced by the Idgezkorn as sub-standard, but the management of the Idgezkorn, behind Martens' back, ordered the leather and had it shipped to Russia. Serebrenny learned of it during his first few days in the office, and came rushing to me with this information.

A week later, he returned and told me that the Idgezkorn office was reeking with another form of graft—the insurance business. The Idgezkorn had organized a pool and clothing forwarding service to Soviet Russia. These parcels had to be insured, the senders paying the charge. A person employed in this office, he learned, who was installed to take care of this insurance, consistently pocketed these premiums, and, as a former insurance man, Serebrenny estimated that the "income" from this source alone was sufficient to keep a family in comfort. As the Idgezkorn was a branch of Martens' office, I hurried over to Martens and told him straight to his face that his place was honeycombed with graft and recited the story about the rotten leather and the insurance payments. Martens became awfully excited and roared: "This Tarpman business will have to stop! I'll destroy it root and branch!" Nothing, however, resulted from this roading.

The Idgezkorn continued as before, and, to my best information, no one was "rooted" out of the Idgezkorn on account of it.

Three weeks later, Serebrenny paid me another visit. It was near the Christmas holidays.

"Levinson," he told me, "it is becoming plainly dangerous to stay in that place."

And he told me another story which, to my ears, sounded dangerous enough, indeed, and which started quite a mess. The Idgezkorn had imposed a rule that all senders of packages to Russia should contribute five dollars each for the starving children in that country. "They have collected a large sum of money from this tax," Serebrenny informed me, "I have watched this business closely, but I have yet to see a red cent of it being sent over to the children of Russia."

"But today," Serebrenny continued, "as I opened my pay envelope, I noticed one hundred dollars in it instead of the regular fifty, which are my weekly wages. I was quite mystified by that double pay in my envelope, so I asked the office accountant, Comrade Zapolsky, but he could throw no light on it, either. He, too, opened his envelope and found in it, to his astonishment, one hundred and fifty dollars instead of the weekly seventy-five dollars. I suggested that, perhaps, the comrade-paymaster was leaving for a week and had left two weeks' pay for the employees. Zapolsky, however, went directly to the manager's office."

"Not at all," he was sweetly informed, "it is just a Christmas gift." Zapolsky flung the check on the desk.

"It is an outrage!" he stormed. "In Russia children are starving and you are handing out gifts here."

"But do you know what you are doing?" came the suave, calm reply, "by your action you are making it impossible for anyone else to get double pay."

Zapolsky declined to take the gift. That was the story Serebrenny told me, adding that Zapolsky, as the chief accountant of the office, was certain that this Christmas gift had come from the five-dollar bills that were being collected for the hungry children of Russia. He, of course, would be no party to such graft.

An interesting point to recall in this connection is that at that time the anti-religious propaganda in Russia was at its height. The Communist Youth and other Communist organizations were staging huge demonstrations all over Russia against the celebration of religious holidays. But here, in the office of the Communist Idgezkorn, the management was handing out to the Communist staff substantial gifts as Christmas bounty.

Story Reaches the Central Committee

Both Zapolsky and Serebrenny asked me, as the secretary of the regional committee of the Russian Federation, to demand that the Central Committee of the Communist Party investigate this matter.

I forthwith paid a visit to Comrade Yakira, a New York representative of the C. C., and proposed that the party institute a searching investigation of the Idgezkorn. A short time later, a meeting to consider this matter had taken place in a private home in Harlem, the occupants of which are now sojourning in Russia. Yakira and another person were there for the C. C.; I represented the Russian Federation, while Zapolsky and Serebrenny came to press the charges. A few of the

Idgezkorn employees were also invited.

Zapolsky made an open charge of graft against the Idgezkorn managers. He charged that its employees were buying up sub-standard foods, rotten materials of all kind, that every nook and corner of the office was reeking with graft, and that the managers of the office are surrounded by a mob of common swindlers. Zapolsky also told the committee that, in the short time of the existence of the office, the management had changed three times office furniture, obviously for the purpose of getting frequent graft commissions. He further told of a telephone conversation between an important Idgezkorn official, and a salesman, overheard by him, in which the official advised the salesman "not to say that he had a lot of this commodity as that might be in the way of getting a good price." "In case they should bargain with you," the advice continued, "don't come down on the price. Just stick to your price, as we agreed. The bargaining is only a perfunctory matter, anyway. Hold on to your rates and you will get them!"

"My efforts against these grafters were of no avail. I haven't succeeded in chasing a single one of them out of the office," Zapolsky continued. "Why, this double pay that we were given before Christmas was nothing but an effort to buy our silence. The management has warned me several times that if I would not desist from 'snooping' around, I would be thrown out. But how could I remain indifferent? Am I not responsible for the accounts of the office? Should these graft depredations ever become public, won't I be held partly responsible for them?"

After Zapolsky's testimony, it was decided to meet again, with the same persons attending, ten days later in the same place. Yakira, on behalf of the C. C., at that second meeting declared that the C. C. had considered the matter and decided to drop it. And that is where it rests to this day.

A short time after that I met again this Serebrenny and we talked about this matter. "Do you know Levinson," he told me in a burst of frankness, "that if I had come out and told people what I know about the goings-on in the Idgezkorn, I would have made their hair stand on edge!"

The Amalgamation of Soap with Barley

At about that same time, the Idgezkorn had opened a branch on a dock in Brooklyn, from which the parcels were shipped to Russia in boats going directly to Russian ports. The manager of that dock office was the same person who used to collect the insurance commissions in the 42nd Street office. Naturally, he continued his insurance business at the dock, too.

In that office they packed exclusively foodstuffs and soap. Russia had a soap famine at that time, and the demand for soap was tremendous. The dock office of the Idgezkorn had ordered waterproof bags for the parcels. When the bags were delivered, a sudden discovery was made that the bags wouldn't do as they could not protect the stuff from being crushed in transit. Thereupon, they ordered wooden boxes, but after the boxes had arrived and were paid for, a new agent proposed special paper boxes, so the wooden boxes were put aside for the new containers. Each order, of course, brought with it substantial commissions, as the manufacturing companies naturally were glad to pay a sizable rake-off. The wonder only is why they didn't order tin boxes, glass jars, leather bags, etc., etc. Surely there was no dearth of

(Continued on page 7)

that never will break, to a bond tested in severest storms and made sacred by sacrifice that asks for no reward.

Hail Local 10, the cutters' fortress, the advance post of our Union. The first twenty-five years of your existence have paved the way for a glorious second start. With a leadership that is capable as it is upright and singularly devoted there is no force on earth that can stop your advance.



EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



Social Tendencies In Literature

By B. J. R. STOLPER

Course Given at Workers' University, Washington Irving High School.
Room 530, Saturday, March 26, 1:30 J. M.

"ENJOYMENT OF THE DRAMA"

The Essence of the Drama The drama differs from its sister, the novel, in this: the author doesn't simply tell us a story about people. He brings his characters before us, and lets THEM tell their story, through speech and action. While a play may be enjoyable reading, its success is measured by the way it acts on the stage.

Conflict The drama represents life as a conflict, a struggle. The chief character is threatened by failure or even destruction. He fails, and we see a tragedy. He succeeds, and we see what we call a comedy. His success or his failure may lie in himself, in the characters of those around him, or in mere circumstances or fate. Here are questions which the play asks and solves, or we ask and solve for ourselves.

Pity and Terror In tragedy, says Aristotle, these two MUST be present. We fear the hero will fail, we pity him when he does fail. The strength of the play lies in the degree in which these two emotions are roused in us. In a comedy, reverse these emotions: relief and joy at the end of the action, and you have a fair measure of judgment.

Escape Actually, as in all literature, our pleasure in the drama is in our feeling of escape. Brutally put, either we see others suffer and rejoice in our own safety, or we see others happy and ourselves sharing their happiness. We identify ourselves with the characters on the stage, and the more nearly we can do so, the greater do we consider the play.

Economy Unlike the novelist, the playwright must be swift in explanation. He has no time for descriptions. The sooner he plunges us into the heart of the conflict, the sooner he holds us and plays on our thoughts and feelings. How soon do we sit up and take notice? And how long do we continue to do so? Here are two more tests of the drama.

Problems There is no such thing as a "problem" play. Every play is a problem—social, political, moral, economic, religious, etc. Even plays written frankly for amusement or for profit present a problem when they present a conflict. Is the conflict one existing largely today? If so, then the sex, the dress, the language, the country of the characters on the stage add only color. We enjoy the play to the degree in which we see our present problems in those of the characters on the stage.

"Across the Footlights" The best test of a play is its ability to get "across the footlights" and this holds good equally for the language, the action, the scenery and the costumes. If the language is high-flown, the action unnatural, the scenery and costumes irritating, the play has been poorly written or poorly managed somewhere, no matter how well it reads.

(To be continued)

A Visit To Roerich Museum

Through the arrangements of the Educational Department a group of our members visited Roerich Museum last Saturday. This is also the Master Institute of United Arts, located at 310 Riverside Drive.

At present there is an exhibition of the famous Russian artist, Nicolas Roerich. There are 500 of his paintings, a wonderful panorama. The richness of color and imagination is marvelous. Unlike other great masters, Professor Roerich does not favor one particular color, and his variety of subjects points to the fact that everything human interested him.

Most interesting are his prophetic paintings where with the artist's sense he foretells the World War. This is represented by a painting of a city in flames, and a lonely warrior making an effort to save something from the destruction. Satan on the other side is also active in his destructive efforts. One painting in particular attracted the attention of our group. This is the picture of an old king, presumably from the other world, who comes back and finds the throne which he left unoccupied and dusty, and he stands looking at it in amazement. It seems that Nicolas Roerich in 1910 when this was painted, the fall of many thrones which the war brought about.

It would be impossible in a limited space to give an adequate description of these 500 paintings. The lecturer, Mr. Louis L. Horsch, president of the Museum was most inspiring. He led our members through the halls and spent about an hour and a half ex-

plaining each picture. He did it exquisitely, using plain and simple language which was understood by everyone. His enthusiasm for Roerich's work and for art in general could have no other effect but to inspire the group in art as the greatest enrichment of life; and we wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Horsch.

We hope in the near future to arrange another visit to this Museum.

COURSE ON LITERATURE AND LIFE COMPLETED

Dr. H. Lieberman completed his course on Literature and Life which he has been conducting this season for our members in the Bronx. In his discussions he touched upon many subjects of interest, such as, How Life Influences Literature and Vice Versa, Style and Substance, Art and Trash, the Sex Question in Literature, etc. The sociological and psychological aspects were included.

We are delighted to know that throughout this course the same group attended every session. We are sure our members were given a better understanding of the world they live in. We all realize that literature is prophetic and foretells the course of events.

The lecturer's presentation was most thoughtful and reflective, and we regret that the course had to be concluded sooner than planned, because of Dr. Lieberman's insistence that he must go away for a rest. We hope to continue these Friday evening sessions next winter.

Weekly Educational Calendar

Washington Irving High School,
16th Street and Irving Place, Room 530

Saturday, March 26

1:30 p. m. B. J. R. Stolper—Social Tendencies in Literature.
"Yiddish Literature a Lively Invalid"—Sholom Asch.

Sunday, March 27

11 a. m. Dr. H. J. Carman—Social Factors in American History.

Washington Irving High School Dining Room Saturday, April 2

8 p. m. Students Reunion—10th Anniversary of Educational Department.
Dancing, Singing, Refreshments—Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players.

Admission 50 cents. Tickets can be obtained at Educational Department,
3 West 16th Street.

"THE WORKER LOOKS AT GOVERNMENT"

By Dr. A. W. Calhoun

"The Worker Looks at Government" is the apt and arresting title of a book by Dr. Arthur W. Calhoun, instructor at Brookwood Labor College, which has just been issued by the International Publishers, New York.

All workers and especially all members of the trade union movement are constantly asking questions having to do directly or indirectly with government, how it works, and how Labor may use it for its interests. Such questions arise as:

Is the prohibition amendment to the constitution properly a part of the constitution or is it a piece of statutory matter inserted in the constitution?

Does it make any difference whether a country has a republican or a monarchial form of government?

Why were Americans stirred up about the Initiative and Referendum a few years ago and why has the interest now apparently waned?

Does it make any difference whether power is vested chiefly in Congress or the President or the Supreme Court?

Why do Boards of Education object granted to a corporation as a contract which cannot be broken, while a charter granted to a city may be amended or revoked by the state?

Why do Boards of Education object

to teachers joining unions while they do not object to their joining Rotary Clubs or Chambers of Commerce?

These and many other questions of the greatest interest to Labor are discussed and answered in "The Worker Looks at Government". It would be quite impossible to give in a brief review any adequate idea of the storehouse of information contained in this book or the many illuminating and even startling comments on vital issues. Two quotations must suffice. The first deals with the usurpation of power by the Supreme Court.

All workers and others who are interested in the labor movement or in the problems of government should read this book. You will probably not agree with everything the author says. The author does not ask that you do. As is the common practice at Brookwood, the material is not "embalmed in closed form". Questions follow each chapter, and the author suggests that "if these cannot all be answered on the basis of information in the book and from the reader's own experience, they may furnish the basis for nice discussion in interested groups, or indeed may remain as unsettled problems."

Because of these questions at the end of each chapter, as well as for other reasons, the book will be especially useful for workers' education study classes.

Reunion of Students and Instructors Next Saturday

One week remains before the Reunion of our Students and Instructors which will be held on Saturday, April 2, 8 p. m., in the dining room of Washington Irving High School, 16th Street and Irving Place.

This celebration marks the tenth anniversary of the Educational Department, and invitations have been sent to those who attended courses, lectures, entertainments and visits to museums, instructors, friends, executive boards or our local unions, and officers have also been invited to join our celebration.

Unlike previous reunions, this time, dancing will begin at 8 p. m., and will continue all evening. The music will be furnished by the unequalled Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players. To make the evening more enjoyable there will also be group singing led by professional singers.

To cover some of the expenses the committee has decided to charge 50 cents admission. Tickets can be ob-

tained at our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street, or Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning at the Workers' University, Room 530 of Washington Irving High School. The capacity of the hall is limited, and we therefore advise you to make your reservations at once.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL MEET

Thursday, March 31

A meeting of the Students' Council of the classes of our Educational Department will be held on Thursday, March 31, right after work in the office of our Educational Department, 3 West Sixteenth Street.

At this meeting final arrangements will be made for our Students' Reunion, and subcommittees will be appointed for the work.

Each member is requested to make a special effort to attend this meeting.

Labor The World Over

THE recent decree for the application of the legislation prohibiting nightwork in bakeries contains so many clauses providing for exemptions, that it really means a considerable change for the worse. For instance, nightwork is permitted in cases "when as a result of force majeure the normal course of industry is disturbed, so as to make probable a reduction of output". Argentinian labor papers point out that this clause was inserted in view of the possibility of a limitation of output in consequence of a strike.

Police and Labor in Buenos Ayres

THERE have recently been several important strikes in Buenos Ayres, in which the police have distinguished themselves by their brutal treatment of the strikers. For instance, strike pickets stationed some hundreds of yards away from the works concerned have been arrested, and even beaten.

Not long since there was a general strike of boot and shoe operatives in Buenos Ayres, which was successful: it involved 450 firms, and secured for the workers a 44-hour week without any wage reduction; but during its progress the strikers were very roughly treated in every possible way by the police, who nevertheless boast of being a model constabulary force. Much the same thing happened with the strikers of the Barilero textile mills, and with the workers of various shipyards who were opposing the speeding-up system.

D'Aragona's Denial

THE former secretary of the Italian National Centre, D'Aragona, denies the news published by the Fascist press, that he has signed a declaration which is equivalent to an admission of his conversion to Fascism. He concludes his denial of the report with the following words: "Those who know me will know that I am not in the habit of evading responsibility for my acts. If I had signed the said declaration, I should not hesitate to say so. Those who know me also know that there have been plenty of opportunities and Fascist offers which I might have accepted. But mindful of my 35 years of campaigning for the Socialist and Labor organizations of Italy, I prefer to be true to myself and to earn my own living and that of my family by private work. For that reason I think I can go back to my country and my work without fear." (D'Aragona was at the time in a foreign country, which fact alone is a proof that he cannot have signed the declaration).

D'Aragona's intention to return to Italy is sufficient evidence of his courage. For after all that has happened, it is doubtful whether he can go back to his private work without first signing some document or other, or else, perhaps, being banished to uninhabited islands, where there is nothing left for him but death.

Since no reliance is to be placed either on Fascist or on bourgeois or Communist papers, and the news from sources otherwise reliable is contradictory, we reserve our comments until we shall have received really authentic information on the subject. Those who know what has been done in the last three years in Italy in the way of persecution, violence and criminal assault will reserve judgment. And those who are so fond of being the first to cast a stone, i. e., the Communists, might remember that many of those who are now adherents of Bolshevism in Russia have likewise been converted under the severest compulsion, in order to save their very lives.

The Trade Union Movement in North Africa

THE Journal of the French Trade Union Congress, *L'Atelier*, recently contained a brief account written by Jouhaux and J. Lapierre concerning their visit to North Africa for the purpose of trade union propaganda. In the French protectorate of Tunisia, trade union freedom is absolutely non-existent, which makes things extremely difficult, especially for the workers in the employ of the State, who are recruited from France. In private industry, too, especially in the building trades, the workers are under a great disadvantage owing to the non-recognition of their unions by the law. Despite these hindrances, however, trade unionism is fairly far advanced; the railwaymen's union, for instance, organizes 80 per cent of the workers in the service of the various railway administrations. Having on several occasions threatened a strike, these workers have succeeded in obtaining similar working conditions to those prevailing on the French railways.

The 1200 teachers, too, are almost all organized, and postal workers have 3 unions, for workers, employees and telegraphists respectively, all of which are very energetic. The worst conditions are to be found in the mines (iron, manganese, etc.) which employ thousands of workers imported from Italy, Sardinia and Malta. But on certain other industries, the factory regulations dealing with hygiene and safety are superior to those of France. European workers earn 20 to 30 francs per day, natives from 9 to 12 francs.

In Algeria, trade unions have been recognized by law since 1884. But the organization of Algerian workers still leaves much to be desired. There has been a fairly large influx of Communists, as Jouhaux and Lapierre had reason to know from experience at their large meetings. But in spite of this hostility, it is evident that the stimulating effect of the visit was very great, and was felt throughout the whole of the colony.

Lithuania Turns Black

IN spite of all kinds of protests the Lithuanian government persists in competing with the worst and most tyrannical of modern governments. Free trade union leaders who were unjustly arrested during the disturbances are still under lock and key; and worse still, more free trade union leaders are being arrested, and more Communists are being condemned to death, so that the reality of the tyranny of the present regime exceeds the worst anticipations. Even non-political "free" unions are being dissolved.

The whole procedure is nothing but the instinctive savagery of unprincipled persons. The leather workers' union has been closed under the vague pretext of "political unreliability", as also the lorry drivers' union and several local branches of the land workers' union, etc. Even a conference of executives recently convened by the Lithuanian National Centre to discuss purely organizational questions was curtly prohibited. The meetings of members of these trade unions which are not dissolved are not permitted and the national centre cannot even issue its own journal. The railwaymen's union, which was dissolved immediately after the revolution has, it will be remembered, complained of the illegality of the act, but its protest has been left entirely unregarded. Everything on the premises of this union has been sequestered, without any reason being given; and the rooms have been let to a private person.

With American Communists Underground

(Continued from Page 5)

agents to supply the needs of the managers!

The result was that the barley, flour, soap and the other raw stuffs packed in the paper boxes had reached the Russian port in a horrible condition. The boxes containing the soap, it appears, were placed underneath in the hold of the vessel, while the foodstuff parcels were placed on top. The entire cargo when it reached Russia was neither soap nor barley. The messy thing was fit neither for eating nor for cleansing.

This story was told at a meeting of the Party by a comrade named Rubin who worked as a clerk at the dock. This comrade Rubin now is employed by the Amtorg on lower Broadway. Rubin thus complained before the comrades of the Russian Federation:

"I don't know what we are to do with our 'higher-ups'. They don't let a thing go by without making money!" He added that the person who managed things so well at the dock office had given all the employees of that office a splendid banquet or dinner in order to gain their good will. Rubin refused to attend that dinner, he said.

I hope that even though he is now employed in the Amtorg office, the Communists will not force this Rubin to deny this story.

Friends of Soviet Russia Leave a Flock of Offspring

The scandalous conduct of the Idgezkomb office soon became a byword in all Communist circles—all except the C. C. which continued to keep its head in the sand with regard to it. The comrades all over the country stopped supporting it, and as a result of this boycott, the business of the Idgezkomb fell off materially. Many of the office employees were discharged, and it looked as if its days were now numbered.

No Catholic Unions in Britain

ONCE more, as often before, a rumour is current that Catholic unions are about to be founded in Britain. As the Catholic press in Holland, where there are separate national centres for both Protestant and Roman Catholic trade unionists, is making capital out of the announcement, the Netherlands Federation of Trade Unions applied to certain well-known leaders of the British labor movement, who are known to be convinced Catholics, and asked them if there was any truth in the rumor. They replied in the negative, as did also Citrine, the secretary of the British T. U. C. They added that the Catholic trade union leaders are among the most loyal members of what on the Continent would be called the "free" trade unions of Britain.

Meanwhile several of the Idgezkomb managers were summoned to Moscow. Serebrenny and I who knew a good deal about the Idgezkomb were certain that they had been called over to be shot. Commissars, we were told, were being shot in Russia for graft. Our reckoning, however, proved to be wrong. Nothing happened, and the same fellows returned from Moscow with new authority representing the Soviet power.

To save the fast diminishing Idgezkomb business from a total crash, one Bittelmann had been engaged—a former clerk in the office of the People's Relief Committee, who, I am told, had quit that office on bad terms and under a heavy cloud. But the comrades displayed no special desire to work for Bittelmann's Idgezkomb, and the powers that be, thereupon, decided to import from Russia a "representative personality", one Comrade Rashkess, a hand-shaker who could make friends even in the "counter-revolutionary" camp. Rashkess was imported to bring new prestige to the Idgezkomb and to start it going once more.

Rashkess began holding conferences with Abraham Cahan, editor of the "Forward", with Louis Marshall, with B. C. Viadeck, Alexander Kahn of the People's Relief, and with several other "right" leaders, but failed to revive interest in the discredited Idgezkomb. But the commissars would not be daunted. Seeing that the Idgezkomb was bankrupt, they decided to open up a new business under a new name. They named it "Workers' Aid Committee" and placed Abe Epstein in charge of it. But, from its early inception this "committee" met with a suspicious attitude among the Communist comrades. Everybody appeared agreed that this revamped "Idgezkomb" would carry on its business on the same old level of graft and rottenness. The whole filthy business with the old Friends of Soviet Russia, the Idgezkomb, and this new-fangled "Workers' Aid Committee" became clear to all of us. Moreover, the old attacks of the "Forward" on the "Friends" as a nest of corruption and private graft, much as they irritated us when they first appeared, had given us the first stimulus to regard with critical eyes the doings of the money-collectors who followed the "Friends".

The "Workers' Aid Committee" died shortly. But then the question of Jewish colonization in South Russia came up to the fore, and that gave the commissars a new chance. The "Ikor" was born.

Today, it is no secret even to most Communists that this "Ikor" is but a great-grand-child in graft, swindle and bribery of that old granny—the Friends of Soviet Russia—may she rest in unsavory peace!

(To be continued)



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Greetings, Members of Local 10.

On the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration

It is, indeed, a proud and unique moment in the life of officers to greet the membership on the occasion of the twenty-fifth birthday of a labor union. This distinction has fallen upon the present officers of the Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union, Local 10, I. L. W. U., whose members will begin a two-day celebration, tomorrow and Sunday, March 26th and 27th.

Important as the daily routine work of a labor union is, valuable as its reinstatement after an unjust discharge may seem to a member, heartening as a few dollars of pay increase may appear to the members, the general mission of a labor union, nevertheless, is of far greater significance.

The history of the labor movement is rich in accounts of the immense contributions made by workers' organizations towards the progress of civilization. Labor unions are credited with having made possible the enjoyment by workers of the cultural aspects of life. Through their struggles for the material needs of life they have made possible for the workers to enjoy these finer things of life.

More than two generations ago, a handful of men gathered to form the nucleus of a cutters' union. These men laid the foundation for the present organization which has done so much for the cutter and for the alleviation generally of the workers oppressed by the curse of the sweat-shop.

The early struggles of these men and of the men who joined the organization later belongs to the realm of the "History of the Cutters' Union", which has been ably prepared by Mr. James Oneal, and a copy of which will be in the hands of most members within a day.

The early years of the cutters' organizations are full of the usual fluctuations of young labor unions. But there was a dogged determination on the part of the early organizers to set up solidly and permanently a cutters' union and this determination in the end overcame all the maladies of infancy and youth and won out.

With the influx of a tremendous migration to this country of workers in the needle trades, the native element, the mainstay of the original cutters' union, was considerably replaced. But while other local unions of our early International have led a precarious and often insecure life, the immigrants who entered Local 10 as cutters, became imbued with the spirit of its founders and became part and parcel of the loyal material of this organization.

This idealistic element in the cutter, this will never to lose sight of the purpose for which a trade union is formed, has made him not only the pride of the American Labor movement but influential in building up a powerful International union. The immigrant cutter also helped to place Local 10 on a high progressive level and all constructive progressive measures have found in him an ardent supporter.

As the immigrant took his place permanently in the industry and as the industry itself began to assume its present proportions, the newer element gradually realized that certain changes should be made to meet this condition.

They carefully weighed the probable effects. The result is interesting history. The necessary changes were effected, and the local emerged unscathed from the internal clash between the young and the old, between the new ideas and the old ideals that once fitted a passing industrial condition.

How different was that adjustment from the freak and fitful efforts of the self-constituted "messiahs" of a more recent day! The cutters were never averse to adopting constructive measures to meet changes made necessary by a changing industry. But when these newfangled saviors, attempted, by a hysterical propaganda and by mad shoutings to force their dogmas upon the cutters, they were met by a solid front that at once checked their mad schemes.

How staunchly the cutter stood by his union, how courageously he warded off this brutal attack, how marvelously he kept up his head, is very recent history which occupies a dramatic concluding chapter in the "History of the Cutters' Union".

The immediate future, however, loudly calls now more than ever for that kind of spirit and activity which has earned for the cutters so enviable a reputation. The conflict forced upon us by the Communists has compelled the International to undertake the reorganization of some local unions, nearly broken up by the perverse element. Just as in the past, a large measure of the work of reconstruction has fallen to the lot of the cutter, and the cutters will have to assume a large share, if not the burden, of this work on their shoulders.

Let us determine, on the eve of the celebration of our twenty-fifth anniversary, to undertake this work in the thorough manner which always characterized the cutters in their former struggles, and let us help bring back our International Union to its former powerful standing not alone in the ladies' garment industry, but also in the labor movement.

There are men, formerly of our own midst, to whom it will not be given to share with us our moments of jubilation, for the reason that they are now engaged in different pursuits. But many of these men have suffered the trials and tribulations bound up with the growth of a union. Let us be generous at this moment and remember their contribution to the building of our Union. And in paying tribute, no small share should go to those of our brothers,

Manager Dubinsky's Message to Cutters

Greeting:

Fate, indeed is smiling upon us, who are fortunate enough to take part in this wonderful event, the celebration of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of our union as a local of the I. L. G. W. U.

Our union has a glorious and inspiring past. Our members—alike in times of joy and in adversity—always have kept the banner of our local high aloft, conforming with the finest traditions of the Labor Movement. And the story of our past, ennobled by the sacrifice and struggles of the older generation of our members, shall forever remain a source of inspiration for our future efforts, the unceasing work of our local to improve the labor and living standards of our men.

We have reason to take pride in the fact that our members, though differing widely on matters of politics, have always placed the interests of their union above all parties and groups. It was this undivided devotion that has made it possible for all of us to present a solid and harmonious front on all occasions in our past.

Our members have paid a heavy price for the success of their union. But the results were worthwhile, and we are all proud of our record. May this splendid affair, the festive celebration of our jubilee, prove to be a demonstration of unity and devotion to our own local, to the International Union, and to the whole Labor movement.

Long live our Cutters' Union, Local 10!

Long live our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union!

DAVID DUBINSKY, Manager.

officers and members, who, while members or servants in the Union, have departed from our midst. These gave of their life's energy to the progress of the Union. And while they, themselves, may not witness this historic jubilee of ours, the celebration of our twenty-five years of life, let us pause in the present moment and pay our respects to the departed ones. Let the heritage left us by the founders prove a lasting inspiration to us.

In their daily struggles the cutters have never lost sight of their common purpose not only with the workers with whom they are in daily contact in the shops, but also with the entire working class. Just as their self-imposed discipline has made possible the building up of our admirable organization, this training and discipline has made them part of the army of workers the world over that is marching toward that economic and social order which is the ideal of the toiling masses.

Greetings to you, brothers, and to your wives and children, and to your kin and near, on this, the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration of our Cutters' Union. The opportunity to make this occasion a festive one is here. Let us now give ourselves over entirely to its holiday spirit, in a manner that will forever last in our memory.

Fraternally,

SAM B. SHENKER.

Acting Secretary.

In Memoriam

Officers and Members at Funeral of Brother Benjamin Sachs

Final respects were paid at the bier containing the remains of Business Agent Benjamin Sachs on Thursday, March 16th, where, in addition to the family and personal friends, there were gathered a large number of members and officers of Local 10. Eulogies of Brother Sachs were rendered by Brothers Samuel Perimutter, Isidore Nagler, Louis Pankin and by the secretary of the branch of the Workmen's Circle of which the deceased was a member.

Brother Sachs was not only one of the early members of the union, having joined it in July, 1910, but for many years before assuming office was one of the active spirits in the union and has aided in raising it to its present standing. He served as business agent for a number of years.

He died in his fifty-second year and

is survived by his widow and two children. He suffered from a complication of diseases which resulted in the poisoning of his blood system.

For nine weeks he hovered between life and death in Lebanon Hospital. Hope for his recovery was abandoned in the early weeks of his illness.

Brother Sachs was not only active in the union, but, was also active as a member of the Socialist Party and of the Workmen's Circle. His service was unselfish and he never performed it for the sake of glory. His death on the eve of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of Local 10 is even more pathetic. It was not given him to witness the result of the work to which he had contributed many years of his life. The heartfelt condolences of the membership of Local 10 go out to the bereaved family.

FINAL JUBILEE NOTICE

CONCERT will begin at 2 P. M. Sharp. Bring your dues book with you to be stamped upon receipt of the history.

BANQUET will start at 5:30 P. M. Sharp.

Please be prompt. Only those whose names are registered in the office for the purchase of banquet tickets will be admitted.